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Urban District of Lakes

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1937.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Lakes.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District for the year 1937.

The arrangement of the same is similar to that of the previous year, and is compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health's communication of October, 1937.

Except where any changes have occurred in the matter of Nursing in the Home, Laboratory arrangements, Hospital accommodation, Ambulance facilities and the establishment of new Clinics and Treatment Centres the general details have been omitted.

The proper provision of accommodation for the isolation and nursing of infectious diseases on modern lines has been under the consideration of the County Council for some time past but no decision has yet been reached.

Considerable important legislation has come into force during the year, notably the Midwives' Act and Public Health Act, both of which received the Royal Assent in the previous year.

The administration of the Midwives' Act is in the hands of the County Council.

The Public Health Act, which has been long overdue, replaces the 1875 and Amending Acts and clarifies the general administration regarding the Health Services.

The Education Act of 1936 provides for the raising of the School Age from 14 to 15 years.

During the year, the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation) Act was passed and provides regulations for safety in connection with disinfestation.

The Local Government Superannuation Act brings all Local Authorities into line with regard to the superannuation of officials: in times past there is no doubt that Authorities who had adopted the Act of 1922 were in a position to make more attractive offers of employment to Officers than those who had not adopted the Act.

I am indebted to your Officials for much help and advice on many occasions, and especially to the loyal co-operation of your Sanitary Inspector.

The Medical Profession has been ever ready to place its services at my disposal, and I am grateful to its members for their courtesy, which makes for harmony and efficiency.

To one and all I tend my sincerest thanks.

I have the honour to be,
Sir, and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

W. Baron Cockill,
Medical Officer of Health.

3rd May, 1938.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or part time	Other Offices.
W. B. Cockill	M.D., etc., D.P.H.	M.O.H.	Part.	M.O.H. W'land Combined Districts.
A. F. Fildes.	M.I.M.C.E.	Water Engineer.	Part.	Surveyor.
J. H. McAdam	Cert. S.I.B. R.S.I.	Sanitary Inspector.	Part.	Sanitary Engineer.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

Area (acres)	49,905
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid 1937	5,220
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books... ...	1,625
Rateable Value	£51,918
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£216 : 6 : 6

There are no large industries, as the Urban District is largely a residential and holiday resort. There are certain stone and slate quarries in the District.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	49	33	16	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 9.6
	Illegitimate	1	1	0	

Birth Rate, England & Wales 14.9

Still Births ...	3	3	0	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 57
Deaths ...	84	39	46	

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.3

Corrected ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ... 13.3

Death Rate, England & Wales 12.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil.	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes ...	1	18.9
Total	1	18.9

Maternal Mortality Rate, England & Wales... ... 3.1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—
All Infants per 1,000 live births... ... ... 40.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 40.8

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... Nil

Infantile Death Rate, England & Wales 58

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 12

,, ,, Measles (all ages) ... ... Nil

,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)... ... Nil

,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ... Nil

Deaths were registered from the following Causes :—

DISEASE	M.	F.	Total
Influenza	4	5	9
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	2	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	—	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	8	4	12
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	6	8
Heart Disease	9	11	20
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	2	2
Bronchitis	2	—	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	3	3
Peptic Ulcer	2	—	2
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	—	1
Other Puerperal Causes	—	1	1
Congenital Debility, Prematurity, Malformations, etc.	1	1	2
Senility	3	4	7
Other Violence	2	1	3
Other Defined Diseases	2	5	7

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor beyond an epidemic of Influenza has there been any noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the District; neither occupation nor environment have had any prejudicial effect upon health.

The School Medical Officer does not consider that unemployment has had any significant influence on the health or physique of the children, nor is there any direct evidence that adults have been seriously affected from the same cause.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Ambulance Facilities.

These facilities remain the same as heretofore.

Laboratory Facilities.

No change has been made in these facilities.

Nursing in the Home.

There is no change in these arrangements.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No new Clinics or Treatment Centres have been established.

Hospitals.

There has been no change in either the public or voluntary hospital services.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The mains at Grasmere are considerably narrowed by incrustations and this leads to difficulty in maintaining pressure especially in the holiday seasons.

The old question of the supply to Patterdale has been again before the Council and a Consulting Engineer is now preparing his report thereon.

The Basinghall Mining Syndicate of the Greenside Mines has renewed the Storage Tank and Mains for the Glenridding Supply and except where local lack of attention at the intakes has occurred there is improvement.

The Chapel Stile and Elterwater Supply has been satisfactory, but as many new consumers have been connected thereto, it is quite possible that the demand upon it during the summer months may be more than it can meet.

The question of Little Langdale and its supply mentioned in the report of last year is still under consideration and awaits the decision of the County Council as to the provision of some contribution towards the necessary somewhat heavy expense such a scheme will involve. This supply will probably be obtained from either East Busk or Gill Graines. At one hotel a chlorination plant has been installed.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The work of renewing the filter beds at the Ambleside Sewage Works has been proceeded with and two of the three have been completed and put into action during the year; the third bed will be finished very shortly.

Rivers and Streams.

All new private sewage disposal systems are carefully scrutinised, with the object of preventing pollution of rivers and streams, and improvements where possible have been carried out. No complaints have been received from the County Authority.

Closet Accommodation.

Throughout the District there have been 17 conversions from privies or earth closets to water closets.

No figures are yet available as to the total closet accommodation throughout the Urban District.

Public Cleansing.

These arrangements have remained unaltered. Tips have been secured at Troutbeck and at Glenridding.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Periodical inspections of the district are made, and action has been taken in the following instances:—

Premises in such a state as to be injurious to health	10
Blocked drains	11
Defective W.C.'s	7
Insufficient drainage...	5
Defective Sink	1
Defective Cesspools	5
Insufficient Water Supply	5
Insufficient Ashpits	59
Total	103

In most instances the work has been done through Informal Notices, but in 5 cases Statutory Notices under the Public Health Acts have been found necessary.

Shops' Act, 1934.

No legal action under the Act has been taken by the Council.

Smoke Abatement.

No industrial smoke nuisance exists.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

Open-air bathing in Windermere Lake is provided for at Waterhead Bay during the summer months.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action has been found necessary.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the schools visited has been satisfactory.

The following schools have been closed on account of Infectious Disease :—

Ambleside Girls and Infants, Kelsick Boys, Grasmere, Patterdale & Little Langdale for Influenza.
Troutbeck for Mumps.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the Year :—

(1) By the Local Authority	Nil
(2) By other bodies or persons	23

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses inspected during the year for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	178
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	224
(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations) ...	6
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	10
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	30

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or by their Officers	26

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By Owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(*a*) By Owners 6

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ... Nil

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ... Nil

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.

(*a*) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year 13

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 14

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 78½

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2

(*c*) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 10

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... Nil

(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

There are 3 Accredited Producers of Milk in this Area. The number of samples of milk examined by the County Council's Bacteriologist amounted to 4. In 3 cases the results were satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was from a producer who had borrowed milk from another farmer outside the District.

Meat and Other Foods.

As far as possible all meat is inspected when the butcher notifies slaughter, but some of the butchers are reluctant to notify as they have difficulty in deciding beforehand when they can kill.

Slaughter-houses, shops and tradesmen's vans throughout the Area are periodically visited and are generally found to be clean and well-kept. The meat sold throughout this Area is of a high quality.

No Meat Marketing Scheme is in force in the Area.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	242	1	73	2381	176
Number inspected	145	1	44	240	105
All Diseases except Tuberculosis ... All carcases condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	Nil.	Nil.	1	Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	14%	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	9%	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	5·7%

Adulteration, etc., and Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Milk samples for cleanliness and tubercle bacilli are submitted to the Pathologist at Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority, and this work is carried out by Mr. C. J. H. Stock, B.Sc., F.I.C., County Analyst, Darlington

Health Education.

There is a considerable amount of dissemination of knowledge relating to health and disease, through health talks at the Schools by the School Medical Officers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was an increase in the number of notifiable diseases during the year, 5 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Diphtheria, 2 each of Erysipelas and Puerperal Pyrexia, 1 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and 7 of Pneumonia. Fatal cases of Pneumonia numbered 4; the Ophthalmia case recovered completely without any interference with the vision.

Diphtheria Antitoxin has been promptly utilised and this is issued free for the treatment of all necessitous cases, excepting patients under the National Health Insurance Act; also for both necessitous and insured persons for prophylactic purposes. The Council very wisely are prepared to supply the necessary facilities for artificial immunization against Diphtheria, but so far no advantage has been taken of the same.

Hospital accommodation is always available at Kendal Sanatorium, so that there is no need to shorten the stay of any patient in Hospital. The admission of cases suffering from Measles or Whooping Cough has not been arranged for, but there is no reason why bad cases of Measles which require skilled nursing should not be admitted at any time.

The County Council has had under consideration for the past four years the whole of the Isolation Hospital question for the County; various schemes have been put forward, but so far there has been no definite decision.

The following Laboratory examinations have been made at the Combined Sanitary District's Laboratory at Kendal:—

Diphtheria	17
Bacilluria	1
Water Analysis	1
,, B. Coli	1
	20

There was an epidemic of Influenza during the early part of the year, but fortunately with little fatality.

A close liaison exists with the School Medical Officers and thus school notifications are always available and utilised where necessary.

Disinfection with formalin is carried out after all infectious cases, and bedding, clothing, etc., is disinfected in the steam disinfector at Windermere Isolation Hospital. No special provision is made for disinfestation, but it can always be arranged in co-ordination with the Kendal Isolation Hospital.

Arrangements have been made between the Westmorland County Hospital and the Manchester Radium Institute for the treatment of cases of malignant disease by radium when so required.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925, with regard to the prevention or treatment of Blindness.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1937.

DISEASE	Total	AGES												Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—		
Scarlet Fever	5	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
Diphtheria ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia ...	7	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	4
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTAL ...	20	2	—	—	1	1	3	1	1	6	1	1	3	7	4

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	1	1	—	—	2	1	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	2	2	—	2	2	1	—

The incidence of Tuberculosis remains much the same; there were 6 cases of Pulmonary and 2 of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one in each of these categories proving fatal.

None of those who were affected were unemployed prior to their illness.

Two deaths occurred in persons whose disease had not previously been notified.

No action has been necessary under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62, Public Health Act, 1925.

The administration of Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases and Maternity and Child Welfare is under the County Council.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

	Inspections.	Notices.
Factories	21 ...	Nil
Workshops ...	18 ...	Nil
Workplaces ...	9 ...	Nil
	48	Nil

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